

PRESS RELEASE

United States Bankruptcy Court, District of Idaho • James A. McClure Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse
550 West Fort Street • Boise, Idaho • 208-334-1373

For Immediate Release

Date: April 22, 2008

Contact: Terry L. Myers, Chief Bankruptcy Judge
or Suzi Butler, Program Coordinator (208-334-9208)

Subject: **I-CARE PROGRAM**

Chief Judge Terry L. Myers and Judge Jim D. Pappas of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Idaho today announced the implementation of the Idaho Credit Abuse Resistance Education (I-CARE) Program. I-CARE is a cooperative effort of the Bankruptcy Court, the Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section of the Idaho State Bar, and the Office of the United States Trustee.

The I-CARE Program is a financial literacy initiative that makes experienced volunteer speakers from the bankruptcy community – judges, trustees and private attorneys – available to high school and college educators to help them teach students the important lessons, tactics and techniques they will need to use consumer credit wisely and avoid credit card debt, and the many consequences they may face if they don't.

I-CARE Program presentations are designed as a supplement to economics or personal finance classes, especially to any unit on consumer credit, and they can be made during individual classroom periods or to larger student groups. I-CARE's primary target is high school students and college freshmen. People in these groups are at risk because, as hungry consumers, they are aggressively marketed by the credit industry but they have limited financial experience and understanding.

During an I-CARE presentation, students will learn about:

- The true costs of using credit cards.
- How to control overuse of credit.
- The importance of distinguishing between “wants” and “needs” when using credit.
- The difference between “maintaining” debt (making minimum monthly payments) and “affording” debt (paying off balances each month).
- The benefits of living credit card debt free.
- The importance of budgeting, and the benefit of accumulating savings for life's inevitable emergencies.
- The consequences of poor use of credit, including impacts on the ability to get a job, or continue higher education, or even the possibility of bankruptcy.

The [I-CARE Program's web site](http://www.id.uscourts.gov) is found at www.id.uscourts.gov (the web site for the U.S. District and Bankruptcy Courts for the District of Idaho), and I-CARE encourages teachers, students and others to visit the web site to learn more about the Program, to find a volunteer presenter, or to review the materials and links to resources which supplement the presentations, all of which can be downloaded for free.